

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1, 3-7 and 16-17 have been amended as follows. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strike through~~ indicate deletions in amended claims. Claim 24 is new.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~using 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof comprising~~ improving reendothelization and vascular endothelial function in a patient in need of such improvement, which comprises by administering administering to said patient 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof, in an amount effective to improve reendothelization and vascular endothelial function, with a device at an injured site in the lumen of a blood vessel having suffered vascular injury, wherein the 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof is present in a dose unit of 1 to 5000 $\mu\text{g/Kg}$ of patient's body weight.

2. (cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof is present in a dose unit of 10 to 50 $\mu\text{g/Kg}$ of patient's body weight.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof is present in a dose unit of 10 to 30 $\mu\text{g/Kg}$ of patient's body weight.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof is present in a pharmaceutically

acceptable carrier wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin (HPCD).

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the HPCD is present in ~~a dose~~ an amount capable of solubilizing the 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof is administered admixed with a carrier comprising at least 0.63 mg hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin per kilogram of patient's body weight.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, which comprises a single administration.

9. (cancelled).

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the device is a catheter containing said 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the device is a stent coated with said 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof is administered following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof is administered simultaneously to percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method uses 17- β estradiol.

15. (cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the 17- β estradiol is present in a dose unit of 10 to 50 $\mu\text{g/Kg}$ of patient's body weight.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the 17- β estradiol is present in a dose unit of 10 to 30 $\mu\text{g/Kg}$ of patient's body weight.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, which comprises a single administration.

19. (cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the device is a catheter containing said 17- β estradiol, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the device is a stent coated with said 17- β estradiol, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said 17- β estradiol is administered following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said 17- β estradiol is administered simultaneously to percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof is the only therapeutic moiety administered.